

# Asemothrips

## Generic diagnosis

Medium-sized, macropterous Phlaeothripinae with unusually broad maxillary stylets. Head longer than wide, vertex without long setae or with 2 pairs of short capitate setae; maxillary stylets retracted to eyes and close together parallel in middle of head. Antennae 8-segmented, III with 2 sense cones, IV with 4 sense cones; VI usually broadly truncate. Pronotum with 5 pairs of major, capitate setae, or with only epimeral setae developed. Prosternal basantra absent, ferna transverse, mesopresternum complete, metathoracic sternopleural sutures long. Metanotum reticulate, with 10-16 small setae but no major setal pair. Fore tarsus with long tooth in both sexes. Fore wing parallel sided, without duplicated cilia. Pelta triangular with apex truncate or bell-shaped; tergites II-VI each with 2 pairs of sigmoid wing-retaining setae, these are small on VII; tergite IX setae shorter than tube, tube shorter than head. Male sternites III-VI with pair of transverse reticulate areas, VIII with no pore plate.

## Nomenclatural data

*Asemothrips* Hood, 1919: 83. Type species *Asemothrips picturatus* Hood 1919, by monotypy.

Apart from the four Australian species, one further species from Sumatra is listed in this genus (ThripsWiki, 2021).

## Australian species

*Asemothrips combustipes* (Karny, 1920: 41)  
*Asemothrips fallax* (Bagnall, 1924: 629)  
*Asemothrips finlayi* (Girault, 1927: 1)  
*Asemothrips picturatus* Hood, 1919: 83

## Relationship data

This genus is of doubtful relationships, and the five listed species are not necessarily closely related to each other. It is possibly related to *Holothrips* in view of the relatively broad, and elongate, maxillary stylets, but *Apelaunothrips* species also have rather broad stylets.

## Distribution data

The Australian species have been found at various sites in the eastern States, between Renmark in South Australia and Badu Island in the Torres Straits.

## Biological data

The species of this genus have been found only rarely, but have usually been beaten from dead leaves where they presumably feed on fungi.

## References

Mound LA (1974) Spore-feeding Thrips (Phlaeothripidae) from Leaf Litter and Dead Wood in Australia. *Australian Journal of Zoology* 27: 1-106.

ThripsWiki (2021) ThripsWiki - providing information on the World's thrips. Available from: <http://thrips.info/wiki/> (Accessed 1.xii.2021)



